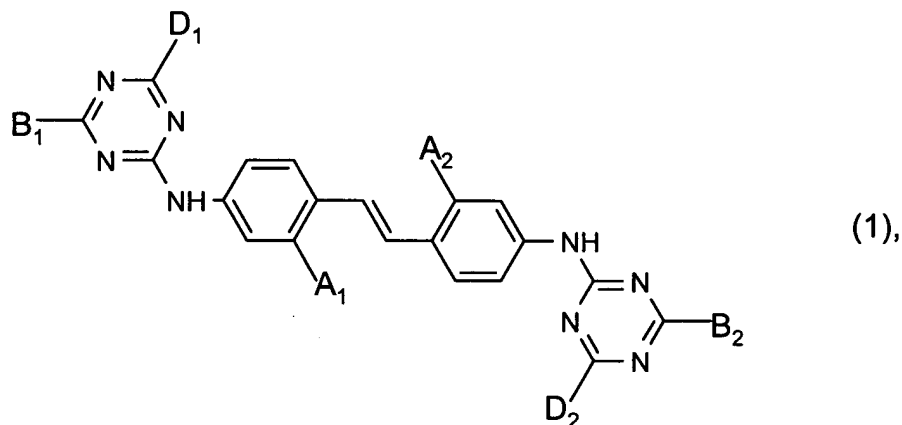


## IN THE CLAIMS

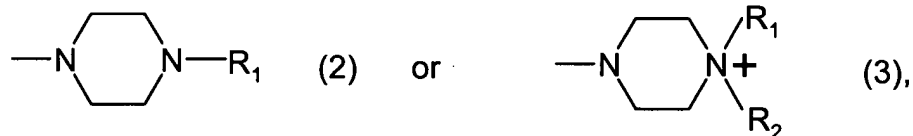
Kindly replace the prior claims listing by the following listing.

1. (currently amended): A compound of the formula



wherein

A<sub>1</sub> and A<sub>2</sub> each, independently of one another, represent -SO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> or -SO<sub>3</sub>M, where M represents hydrogen, an alkaline or alkaline earth metal, ammonium or alkylammonium, B<sub>1</sub> and B<sub>2</sub> each, independently of one another, represent the moiety

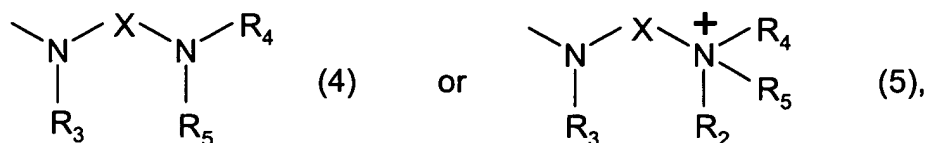


in which

R<sub>1</sub> represents hydrogen, a straight-chain C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>alkyl or branched C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>alkyl group, which C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>alkyl or C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>alkyl group, respectively, may be interrupted by one or two heteroatoms and is unsubstituted or substituted by one or two -OH, -OC<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>alkyl, -NH<sub>2</sub>, -NHC<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>alkyl, -N(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>alkyl)<sub>2</sub>, -N-pyrrolidino, -N-piperidino, -N-morpholino or -N<sup>+</sup>(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>alkyl)<sub>3</sub> groups and

R<sub>2</sub> represents C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>alkyl, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>hydroxyalkyl, -CH<sub>2</sub>CONH<sub>2</sub>, -CH<sub>2</sub>COOH or -CH<sub>2</sub>COO C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>alkyl or, alternatively,

B<sub>1</sub> and B<sub>2</sub> each, independently of one another, represent a group of the formula



in which

R<sub>3</sub>, R<sub>4</sub> and R<sub>5</sub> each, independently of each other, represent hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>alkyl,

C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>hydroxyalkyl, the group -X'-NR<sub>6</sub>R<sub>7</sub> or the group -X'-N<sup>+</sup>R<sub>3</sub>R<sub>6</sub>R<sub>7</sub>, whereby at least one of the substituents R<sub>4</sub> and/or R<sub>5</sub> represents -X'-NR<sub>6</sub>R<sub>7</sub> or -X'-N<sup>+</sup>R<sub>3</sub>R<sub>6</sub>R<sub>7</sub>,

X and X' each, independently of each other, represent a straight-chain C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>alkylene or branched C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>alkylene chain, which is unsubstituted or substituted by one or two -OH or -C(=O)- groups, R<sub>6</sub> and R<sub>7</sub> each, independently of each other, represent hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>alkyl or, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bound, complete a pyrrolidino, piperidino or morpholino ring and R<sub>2</sub> is as previously defined and each

D<sub>1</sub> and D<sub>2</sub>, independently of one another, are either defined as for B<sub>1</sub> and B<sub>2</sub> or represent halogen,[[ -NH<sub>2</sub>,]] C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>monoalkyl- or dialkylamino, said alkyl groups being unsubstituted or substituted by C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>alkoxy, amino, mono- or di-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>alkylamino or tri-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>alkylammonium; C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>hydroxy-alkylamino, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>di(hydroxyalkyl)amino, anilino, an aniline monosulphonic acid or sulphonamide residue or a 5- or 6-membered, saturated heterocyclic ring or, alternatively, mixtures of compounds of formula (1).

2. (original): A compound of formula (1), according to claim 1, in which the residues A<sub>1</sub> and A<sub>2</sub> are identical, B<sub>1</sub> and B<sub>2</sub> are identical and D<sub>1</sub> and D<sub>2</sub> are identical.

3. (previously presented): A three-component mixture of compounds of formula (1), according to claim 1, comprising two components in which the residues A<sub>1</sub> and A<sub>2</sub> are identical, B<sub>1</sub> and B<sub>2</sub> are identical and D<sub>1</sub> and D<sub>2</sub> are identical, and a third component in which the residues A<sub>1</sub> and A<sub>2</sub> are identical, but either, B<sub>1</sub> and B<sub>2</sub> are different or D<sub>1</sub> and D<sub>2</sub> are different.

4. (previously presented): A compound of formula (1), according to claim 1, in which the moieties B<sub>1</sub> and/or B<sub>2</sub> are represented by the formulae (2) and/or (3) and in which

R<sub>1</sub> represents hydrogen, a straight-chain C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>alkyl or branched C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>alkyl group which may be interrupted by one or two heteroatoms and is unsubstituted or substituted by one or two -OH, -OC<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>alkyl, -NH<sub>2</sub>, -NHC<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>alkyl, -N(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>alkyl)<sub>2</sub>, -N-pyrrolidino, -N-piperidino, -N-morpholino or -N<sup>+</sup>(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>alkyl)<sub>3</sub> groups,

A<sub>1</sub> and A<sub>2</sub> are both -SO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> or -SO<sub>3</sub>M,

M, R<sub>2</sub>, D<sub>1</sub> and D<sub>2</sub> being as defined according to claim 1.

5. (currently amended): A compound of formula (1), according to claim 4, in which the moieties B<sub>1</sub> and B<sub>2</sub> are identical and represented by the formulae (2) or (3), whereby

R<sub>1</sub> represents hydrogen, a straight-chain C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>alkyl or branched C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>alkyl group which may be unsubstituted or substituted by one or two -OH, -OC<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>alkyl, -NH<sub>2</sub>, -NHC<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>alkyl, -N(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>alkyl)<sub>2</sub>, -N-pyrrolidino, -N-piperidino, -N-morpholino or -N<sup>+</sup>(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>alkyl)<sub>3</sub> groups,

R<sub>2</sub> represents C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>alkyl,

A<sub>1</sub> and A<sub>2</sub> are both -SO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> or -SO<sub>3</sub>M, whereby

M represents hydrogen, potassium or sodium and

D<sub>1</sub> and D<sub>2</sub> are identical and may be represented by halogen, ~~especially chlorine, -NH<sub>2</sub>,~~

C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>monoalkyl- or dialkylamino, said alkyl groups being unsubstituted or substituted by mono- or di-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>alkylamino or tri-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>alkylammonium; C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>hydroxyalkylamino, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-di(hydroxyalkyl)amino, anilino, an aniline sulphonamide or sulphonic acid residue or a morpholino-, piperidino- or -N-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>substituted piperazino ring.

6. (previously presented): A compound of formula (1), according to claim 1, in which the moieties B<sub>1</sub> and/or B<sub>2</sub> are represented by the formulae (4) and/or (5), whereby

R<sub>4</sub> represents the group -X'-NR<sub>6</sub>R<sub>7</sub> or the group -X'-N<sup>+</sup>R<sub>3</sub>R<sub>6</sub>R<sub>7</sub>,

X and X' each, independently of each other, represent a straight-chain C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>alkylene or branched C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>alkylene chain, which is unsubstituted or substituted by one or two -OH or -C(=O)- groups,

R<sub>3</sub> and R<sub>5</sub> each, independently of each other, represent hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>alkyl or C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>hydroxyalkyl,

R<sub>6</sub> and R<sub>7</sub> each, independently of each other, represent hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>alkyl or, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bound, complete a pyrrolidino, piperidino or morpholino ring,

A<sub>1</sub> and A<sub>2</sub> are both -SO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> or -SO<sub>3</sub>M,

M, R<sub>2</sub>, D<sub>1</sub> and D<sub>2</sub> being as defined according to claim 1.

7. (previously presented): A compound of formula (1), according to claim 6, in which the moieties B<sub>1</sub> and B<sub>2</sub> are identical and represented by the formulae (4) or (5) whereby

R<sub>4</sub> represents the group -X'-NR<sub>6</sub>R<sub>7</sub> or the group -X'-N<sup>+</sup>R<sub>3</sub>R<sub>6</sub>R<sub>7</sub>,

X and X' each, independently of each other, represent a C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>alkylene chain, which is unsubstituted or substituted by -OH,

R<sub>3</sub> and R<sub>5</sub> each, independently of each other, represent hydrogen or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>alkyl,

R<sub>6</sub> and R<sub>7</sub> each, independently of each other, represent hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>alkyl or, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bound, complete a pyrrolidino, piperidino or morpholino ring,

R<sub>2</sub> represents C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>alkyl,

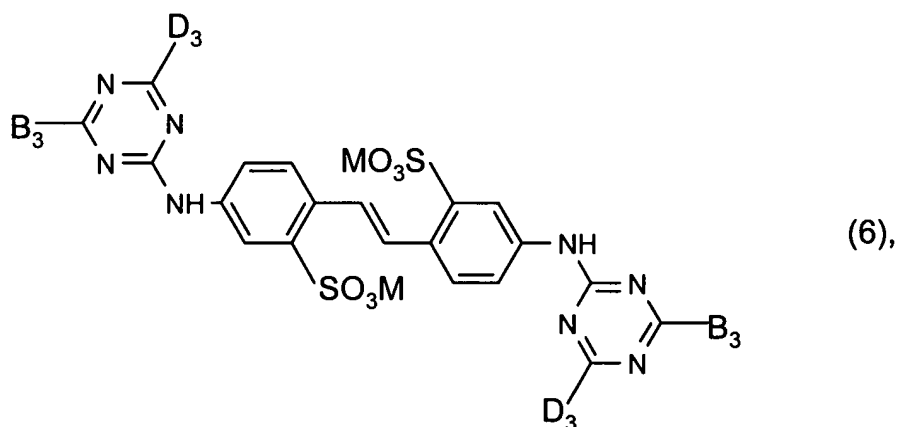
A<sub>1</sub> and A<sub>2</sub> are both -SO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> or -SO<sub>3</sub>M, whereby

M represents hydrogen, potassium or sodium and

D<sub>1</sub> and D<sub>2</sub> are identical and may be represented by halogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>monoalkyl- or dialkylamino, said alkyl groups being unsubstituted or substituted by mono- or di-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>alkylamino or tri-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>alkylammonium; C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>hydroxyalkylamino, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-di(hydroxyalkyl)amino, anilino, an aniline sulphonamide residue or a morpholino-, piperidino- or -N-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>alkylsubstituted piperazino ring.

8. (previously presented): A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (1) as defined in claim 1, or for mixtures of said compounds comprising two components in which the residues A<sub>1</sub> and A<sub>2</sub> are identical, B<sub>1</sub> and B<sub>2</sub> are identical and D<sub>1</sub> and D<sub>2</sub> are identical, and a third component in which the residues A<sub>1</sub> and A<sub>2</sub> are identical, but either, B<sub>1</sub> and B<sub>2</sub> are different or D<sub>1</sub> and D<sub>2</sub> are different, by reacting, under known reaction conditions, cyanuric chloride, successively, in any desired sequence, with each of 4,4'-diaminostilbene-2,2'-disulphonic acid, an amino compound capable of introducing groups B<sub>1</sub> and/or B<sub>2</sub> or precursors or mixtures thereof and an amino compound capable of introducing groups D<sub>1</sub> and/or D<sub>2</sub> or precursors or mixtures thereof, B<sub>1</sub>, B<sub>2</sub>, D<sub>1</sub> and D<sub>2</sub> being as defined in claim 1.

9. (previously presented): A compound of the formula



wherein

B<sub>3</sub> represents a group of the formula -NH(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>NR<sub>8</sub>R<sub>9</sub>, n being 2, 3 or 4 and

D<sub>3</sub> represents halogen, an anilino, anilino-sulphonic acid or anilino-sulphonamide residue,

R<sub>8</sub> and R<sub>9</sub> each independently of each other, represent hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>alkyl, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-hydroxyalkyl or, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bound, complete a pyrrolidino, piperidino or morpholino ring and M is as defined in claim 1, with the proviso that those compounds in which D<sub>3</sub> is anilino, B<sub>3</sub> is an N-(3-aminopropyl)-diethanolamino, N,N-dimethyl-1,3-propanediamino or 4-(3-aminopropyl)morpholine residue or in which D<sub>3</sub> represents a sulphanilamide residue, B<sub>3</sub> is a 4-(3'-aminopropyl)morpholine residue and M is hydrogen are excluded.

10. (previously presented): A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (6) as defined in claim 9 by reacting, under known reaction conditions, cyanuric chloride, successively, in any desired sequence, with each of 4,4'-diaminostilbene-2,2'-disulphonic acid, an amino compound capable of introducing groups B<sub>3</sub> and an amino compound capable of introducing groups D<sub>3</sub>, B<sub>3</sub> and D<sub>3</sub> being as defined in claim 9.

11-14 (canceled).

15. (previously presented): A method for optical brightening of paper in pulp, size-press, metering press or coating applications, which comprises contacting said materials with an aqueous composition comprising a compound of formula (1) as defined in claim 1 or a mixture thereof.

16. (previously presented): A method for optical brightening of paper in pulp, size-press, metering press or coating applications, which comprises contacting said materials with an aqueous composition comprising a mixture of compounds of formula (1) as defined in claim 3.